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Title: Problems being faced by the 'Marathi' community in Kerala and Karnataka.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government and the concerned Minister to the problems being faced by the Marati community in the Northern part of Kerala and in some parts of Karnataka.

Sir, this Marati community was included in the list of STs up to 2002. They had been getting all the benefits from 1956 onwards, but during the period of NDA Government, without much verification and without much assessment they were excluded from the list. As a result of it, their children have not got any scholarships or educational facilities. The farmers are not getting the facilities. There is no justification for this.

Knowing this issue, the Government of Kerala, the National Minorities Commission and also the SC/ST Commission of Kerala has taken a unanimous decision to include this community in the SC/ST list. With regard to the tribe, the character of the tribe, the backwardness of the tribe, its geographical features, etc. these features are still alive. The most important issue is that the same family, which is residing in Mangalore, is getting the benefits, but at the same time, if it comes to Kasargod in Kerala, it is not getting any benefit.

Sir, this is the most important issue. The States of Kerala and Karnataka have been giving the status to them from the very beginning. But now, they have been rejected this status in the State of Kerala alone. It was because of an amendment passed by the Parliament during the NDA Government's tenure or maybe by mistake, not because of much verification was done in this matter, they have been excluded from the list.

I would like the hon. Minister and the Government to give justice to this poor tribe in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha.

Go to your seat. It is no favour you are doing to this House.